

State Board of Education Request For Freeway School Accreditation

Name of Requesting School:	Covenant Christian School (New Petition)
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Board Date:	January 7, 2009	Grade Span:	PK-8
Principal:	Mrs. Barb Hesselink	Public or Private:	Private
Location Address:	54790 Fir Road	Enrollment:	108
City/Town:	Mishawaka	Targeted Student Population:	Mishawaka, Granger, and Edwardsburg, MI Area

Indiana Department of Education Office of School Accreditation and Awards

The following executive summary has been compiled by the **Office of School Accreditation and Awards** for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:

1. "Covenant Christian School is a private, inter-denominational Christian School. CCS prepares students to develop their unique talents, gifts, and interests to discover God's purpose for their lives and to develop critical thinking skills and a love of learning."

2. **Attendance-** "We will submit our attendance rates and work to achieve at least a 90% attendance rate."

3. **Graduation-** Does not apply

4. **Benchmarks-**

- ISTEP+
- IOWA

5. **Staffing-** All of the full time staff is licensed except for one teacher that has a degree in the area they are teaching. "Occasionally, when there are no other options, the school will hire a qualified, but not teacher certified person to teach gym, foreign language, or art if the need arises." (See page 3)

Waiver Requests:

1. **Textbooks-** IC 20-26-12-28, IC 20-26-12-24, 511 IAC 6.1-5-5

"We follow the state adoption schedule and in most subjects utilize the textbooks from the Indiana list, however, because we are a Christian school we utilize a Bible curriculum from Christian Schools

International (CSI) and have adopted hands on science from the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center in Battle Creek, MI and CSI science materials..”

Possible Issue: licensing

Recommendation: Full Accreditation

Rationale: The Freeway school statute does not require a nonpublic school to employ licensed teachers, but the State Board has included staff qualifications as a consideration in contract discussions. Staff licensing for this school is similar to what exists in other Freeway school contracts.

After a site visit, discussions with administrators, and a review of the petition we recommend full five-year accreditation.